

# Guidelights

EDMONDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 69 - ISSUE 4



## Mending Wings "Dancing our Prayers"

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We worship on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people, most notably the Snohomish and Suquamish tribes who every summer fished off these shores and gathered clams, cattails and more in the Edmonds marsh long before the arrival of settlers. Coast Salish people are still here, continuing to honor and bring to light their ancient heritage. We remind ourselves that colonization is an ongoing process, with Native lands still occupied due to deceptive and broken treaties. We respect their sovereignty and their right to self-determination. We honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water, and make efforts towards truth-telling reconciliation.

# Letter from the Pastors

## Crossing the Road

Bruce Main has written a book with an intriguing title, *Why Jesus Crossed the Road*. But what is even better is his subtitle, arguably one of the longest subtitles ever: *Learning to Follow the Unconventional Travel Itinerary of a First-Century Carpenter and His Ragtag Group of Friends as They Hop Fences, Cross Borders, and Generally Go Where Most People Don't*.

Whew! Main goes on to illuminate both the title and the subtitle by making the case that Jesus' ministry was all about "crossing the road" – traveling to places we might not expect a holy man to travel, spending time with people ostracized by their community, and generally crossing barriers others chose to ignore or to carefully walk around.

Jesus' crossings provide a model for ours as we seek to follow in His way. They require us to:

- 1) Cross roads to bring the Good News of Christ to all people

This means going outside our church, and maybe even outside our comfort zone, to share God's love and grace with people wherever they are – whether they look like us, act like us, think like us, or not. It may mean crossing roads into new worship styles or new life-styles in order to see where the Gospel makes a difference today.

- 2) Cross roads to care for all people

This means seeing others as the neighbors Christ tells us to love as ourselves. It means broadening our circle of concern from our own homes and families and church to those who may never darken our doors, but who none-the-less stand in need of God's love, and ours.

- 3) Cross roads to not only accept, but to truly celebrate diversity

This means making friends with people of



Pastor Donna Pritchard



Pastor Ann Jacob

different faith traditions, or people of different ethnicities, or different orientations. It means joining with them to become partners and allies in the transformation of the world.

We engaged in some powerful "crossing the road" recently at EUMC. Our vigil brought a wonderful wide spectrum of people to our doors who choose love over hate. And we hosted the amazing young people of "Mending Wings" from the Yakama Nation who opened their hearts and traditions to us and won our hearts. Our Red Dress exhibit caught the eye of some members of the Tulalip Tribes who were curious about a church that would support this important cause. What a joy to share God's love and grace with so many diverse people in such beautiful ways.

Crossing these roads may not be easy yet crossing them will surely be fruitful – for us, and for God's Reign in our midst.

Grace and Peace to you,

Pastor Donna

We are a hybrid church. We invite you to join us in the sanctuary or online on our website, [www.edmondsumc.org](http://www.edmondsumc.org) or on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/edmondsumc](http://www.facebook.com/edmondsumc)

## Calendar/Events

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

This Sunday, May 28 is Pentacost Sunday, one service at 10am—in person and online. Traditionally we wear red or other flame colors—orange, hot pink.

### PASTOR ANN'S LAST SUNDAY

Sunday, June 11 at 10am

Join us in worship as we celebrate Ann's ministry here in Edmonds and wish her well as she moves to the east coast to be closer to her family and her next adventure. Bring a card and a small gift (\$) to help her on her way.

#### MONTHLY:

Foundry Service - 1st Sunday of the month (June 4) 6-7pm in the sanctuary

#### COMING EVENTS:

Parents Day out - Sunday, June 4, 1-5pm

Family Camp - June 16-18

Vacation Bible School - July 10-15

"SLAM" Mission Trip to Yakama Nation - August 13-18

Mission Trip to Portland, August 4-7

#### "You Asked for It"

You are invited to help craft worship for the month of August by suggesting we sing some of your favorite hymns and asking for a sermon on a specific topic. What is it you wonder about in the Bible, or in the faith as it is lived out every day? Fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or bring it by the church office.

Email the following information to Pastor Donna at: [donna@edmondsumc.org](mailto:donna@edmondsumc.org)

Favorite Hymn Titles:

Sermon Topics:

# Mending Wings from the Yakama Nation Lead Worship



Dewey starts the service with prayer in English and his native language.



Founder and Director of Mending Wings, Corey Greaves



Aidan shares his experience with Mending Wings



The dancers and drummers



Host Families: Mary Cabaniss-Ballard, Dick & Christine Gibson, The Rue Family, Brittany & David Dean, Katy Brock & Phil Borgness

**Thank you Mending Wings** for sharing your culture, laughter, dancing and music, and for opening our eyes to the damage hundreds of years of colonization and cultural and human genocide have done. We see the generational trauma you continue to live with as a result. We honor your resilience, strength, wisdom, and the beauty of your culture and people. We love and support you as members of the same family under God, The Creator. You have a special place in our hearts.

## **MISSED THE SERVICE?**

You can still watch the whole service online at <https://www.edmondsumc.org/broadcast-archive> (May 21st, Mending Wings portion starts at minute 17.)

## **SEND 10 CHALLENGE**

Support the work ongoing work of Mending Wings. \$10 a month enables our life-saving programs to help one Native youth fly again. <https://mendingwings.net/send10-challenge/>

# Peace, Understanding . . . and Potatoes?

EUMC learns a Native American dance



Keep the potato on your heads while dancing! No hands, no teeth!



The winning move!  
Touch the floor without losing your potato!

And the winners are  
Uloma and Fawn!



Jeannette & Denny



The runner's up!

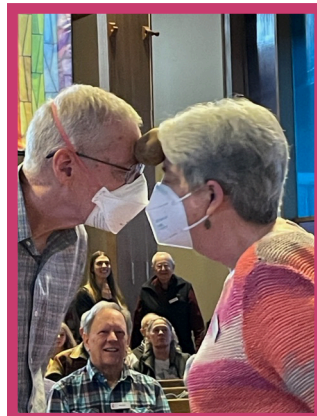


Brittany & David

Other inspirational  
potato dancers!



Ken & Azriah



Bill & Shelly



Carls & Darryl

# Traditional Handmade Regalia of the Yakama Nation

Regalia (say "reh-GAY-leea") is what an Indigenous dancer wears during traditional dances —like at a powwow. Regalia is colorful and is different depending on the type of dance.

For example, a dancer who does jingle dance wears regalia featuring many metal cones that knock together to make a beautiful sound.



## Does the regalia have a special meaning?

Regalia is unique to each dancer, their culture and even their family. There are different kinds of regalia and many parts to each outfit. Some dancers wear feathered or porcupine hair roaches (which are sometimes called headdresses) and breastplates made out of bone.

Some dancers carry shields and rattles. Traditional dancers wear hunting and warrior-inspired regalia.

## Is regalia the same as a costume?

Regalia is definitely not a costume. A costume is something you wear when you dress up and pretend to be someone or something else—like for Halloween. But regalia represents not only the dancer's personality but also their history, family, and culture.

## Is regalia made out of special materials?

The base of the regalia is cotton or buckskin (a type of soft leather usually from deer). It is adorned—or decorated—with things like beads, ribbons, metals, feathers, and porcupine quills.

## Who makes a dancer's regalia?

Many dancers make their own regalia or have it made by someone close to them,



like a family member. Sometimes the dancer can purchase regalia from an artist who creates them. The tradition of making regalia is passed down through generations. It can take many years for a dancer to collect and make pieces for their regalia.



## What is the most common part of a dancer's regalia?

It really depends on the dancer and what type of dance they're doing. But you may have seen a woman dancing with a beautiful shawl. That is part of the fancy shawl dance. The shawl represents butterfly wings.

Men doing traditional fancy dance will wear two big bustles—one on the shoulders and one on the lower back. Often the fancy dancer will wear a feather roach in their hair as well. And, of course, dancers wear moccasins, although you might not notice them with all the beautifully colored regalia to look at.



**Dear Church, let me tell you some great news! It's official! We welcome Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth, our first openly gay, Black bishop. Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!**

In his Service of Installation on May 20, Bishop Bridgeforth shared the story of the Good Samaritan and invited all of us to "cross the road" and participate in ministry for the next mile. He asked us to pray with our feet, bring healing with our words, and love with our resources. On May 2nd, this congregation did just that in our community vigil when we said, "We Side with Love!"

The vigil revealed what we at EUMC know about our church. When a group attempted to intimidate reconciling churches, we resisted hatred and drew a wider circle of inclusive love. We showed up when we heard the urging of our members. We listened when parents said, "We need to protest!" We answered with love when we heard, "Not in our community!" We stood in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ siblings. We acted with compassion and love when we went out and told our neighbors, "Come stand with us!"

Over 60 volunteers and a network of ecumenical and faith leaders created an event with over 400 people in attendance and over 1100 viewers online! This church harnessed a "soul force" when we mobilized and organized. We

partnered with elected officials, community groups, a poet, choir members, cookie bakers, ushers, Stephen Ministers, youth, ministry groups, and more for a public witness of love in action. EUMC prayed with our feet, brought healing with our words, and we loved our community with our resources.

Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers spoke about the most challenging issues facing residents: food security, affordable housing, and the spread of hatred. Community Leader, Courtney Wooten, reminded us of our story and how EUMC supported the start of the Food Bank and Edmonds Neighborhood Action Coalition. Mayor

Mike Nelson reminded us of our collective power and how we acted to change gun laws in our state.

As we prepare for the strategic planning process, and upcoming talks on becoming an antiracist organization, let us notice what we see happening around us. We have new voices and new leaders joining our us. The church is alive



and making an impact in our community. We have some good work to do and more good trouble on the way. We are Edmonds United Methodist Church. We believe in the possibility of a transformed world. We welcome Bishop Bridgeforth, and we are ready to walk a mile into the future with our community.

By Julia Eckberg, member of the Administrative Board and Vigil planning team

# SUMMER OF JOY! 2023

How is God calling you into this next season?  
Will you join us for a Summer of JOY?

As the days grow longer and warmer, more opportunities are coming to gather together. We invite you to make time in your busy schedule to join us for some wonderful opportunities near and far!

- > Have some extra time and enjoy young kids? Volunteer to be a shepherd (helper) for Vacation Bible School.
- > Enjoy reading? Volunteer for a summer reading pop-up at EUMC with the ToyShop and

the Edmonds Public Library, and share the joy of reading with families from our community.

> Ready to travel? Sign-up today for Family Camp, Yakama SLAM trip, or our Portland trip! Grow your relationships with others in our faith community while growing in faith.

Our God blesses us generously with passions and gifts. Let us answer the call to discipleship by saying YES! And sign up today for an opportunity to connect with others and our larger community. Let's share our joy this summer!

- Deacon Erin

## Camp Indianola on the beautiful shores of the Puget Sound



**EUMC**  
**Family Camp**  
Camp Indianola - June 16-18  
Register Today online at EdmondsUMC.org  
\$75 per person includes beautiful lodging steps off the beach, programming, and group meals!

**REGISTER**

*Build family and church memories for a life-time!*





# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

INFO

## GIVE SO A YOUTH CAN PARTICIPATE IN VBS OR A MISSION TRIP!

Are you in a position to support and bless others financially? Follow the link below or scan the QR code to give online through our secure website. Choose Children and Youth in the drop down menu to support these summer programs!

<https://edmondsumc.breezechms.com/give/online>



## SUMMER MISSION TRIPS!



REGISTER FOR MISSION TRIPS

## Art Hall for Summer

It's time to change the Art Hall at EUMC! In an effort to include more of the church family, the theme is simply, "Colors of Summer". Photography, needle work, painting, fabric art, all are welcome. Please submit your work for display by June 5th when the display will be hung. Returned work can be picked up in a box outside of the office marked, "Art Returns". Submit your own work or encourage EUMC artists you know to submit work for our Art Hall.

Thank you,  
Loucinda

## Aging Well Series Reached Many People

Many thanks to Lynn & Ron Heitritter and members of the Congregational Care Team and Stephen Ministers for seeing an important need in our church and addressing it. The series was very well attended by members young and old looking to understand how to navigate the challenges of growing old or those helping their aging parents.

Don't worry if you missed the series or want to share it with a friend or family members. Click below for a link to our website for the recordings and handouts.

[> Recording](#)

[> Handouts](#)

## BREAD for the WORLD Sunday, June 4

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging the U.S. Congress to end hunger at home and abroad. On Sunday, June 4, stop by the Advocates for Justice table as you exit the sanctuary and sign a letter to your member of Congress. We are asking them to pass a strong bipartisan Farm Bill (up for renewal) that will maintain full access to the Supplemental Nutrition Aid Program (SNAP). SNAP is a part of the Farm Bill, which is a package of legislation that covers how agriculture is regulated in the United States. In 2022, more than 65% of SNAP participants were in households with children, 36% in households with disabled or elderly persons, and 41% in working families. Approximately 1 in 4 children currently rely on SNAP benefits. This safety net program is at risk for significant cuts and additional work requirements that would restrict access to benefits. Our letters will join with many other faith communities urging our government to make funding decisions that alleviate hunger and lift people out of poverty.

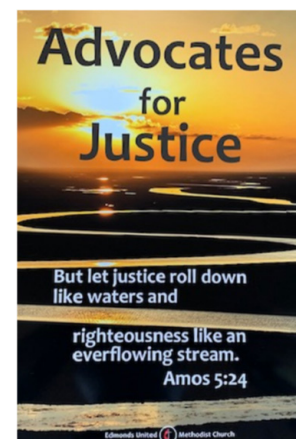


Our letters will join with many other faith communities urging our government to make funding decisions that alleviate hunger and lift people out of poverty.

If you didn't get a chance to sign a letter on June 4, you can write your own letter to Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray and your Representative and mail them together to:

Bread 425 3rd St. SW Suite 1200 Washington, D.C. 20024 or send an email to [mariacantwell@senate.gov](mailto:mariacantwell@senate.gov) or [pattymurray@senate.gov](mailto:pattymurray@senate.gov)

Christine Gibson, Advocates for Justice

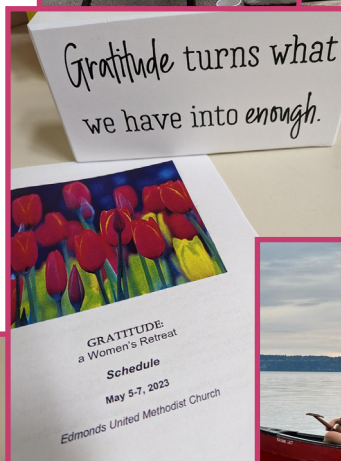


## Gratitude for the Women's Retreat

Over 50 women came together for an amazing weekend at Warm Beach Camp. With thoughtful discussions led by Pastor Donna, we explored the topic of Gratitude. The retreat gave us all time for rest and reflection. There were special gifts for all attendees, arts & crafts, small groups, music, board games, outdoor activities, and so much more. It was a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends, and get to know new ones.

We are so grateful to the retreat planning team, and all the volunteers who lent helping hands throughout the weekend!

Erin Arguelles & Carol Hollyfield  
Co-leaders



## The reorganization of our library is complete!

The reorganization of our library is complete and we are so thankful for those of you who have purchased and donated books! We invite your continued assistance with this decolonizing process as we add books by authors of color, women, LGBTQ+ folx, and disabled scholars. The wish list is almost fully fulfilled! Find the wish list in person at the Edmonds Bookshop or online [here](#). Wondering what books are available to check out? Browse our digital catalog at [www.librarycat.org/lib/eumclibrary828](http://www.librarycat.org/lib/eumclibrary828) and come on in to explore the library throughout the week. Check out is simple—write your name and selected book in the binder on the shelf closest to the door, then reshelv when you are ready to return.



**Thank you Angela for all your fabulous work!**

## Can we Prevent Gun Violence in America?

For years I asked myself that question. I felt crushed by the weight of tragic news of shooting after shooting in our country. Then one day my precious 6-year-old granddaughter came home from school and described this odd thing they'd done at school—it was an "active shooter drill." My heart sank and that was it for me. I could no longer be a bystander wringing my hands. Thanks to the EUMC Advocates for Justice, I found a group that was working for change in this area and many others.

Turns out I'm a person who needs facts and data to understand some things and be convinced. As a retired Children's Services social worker, this one staggers me. Gun violence is now THE leading cause of death for children and teens in our country. While the school-based shootings grab the headlines and our horror, the vast majority of deaths are from suicide, other homicides, and accidental shootings from unsecured guns in homes.

And the other fact I've learned is that so many of these can be prevented! There is data that demonstrates common sense actions and laws do reduce gun violence. Other developed countries like ours do not have the levels of gun violence we do.

The Washington State based non profit, the Alliance for Gun Responsibility, shared these myth busters about gun violence. Their research and data-based approach sheds light on these myths. One advocate summed it up by saying, "We are not fighting against guns; we are fighting for safety."

**MYTH:** Someone experiencing suicidal thoughts will always find a way to complete suicide whether with a gun or other means.

**FACT:** 9 out of 10 people who survive a suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide. That is why securing access to firearms—the most lethal means—works to reduce suicide.

**MYTH:** Arming victims with a gun will protect them from domestic violence.

**FACT:** There is NO EVIDENCE suggesting that

gun ownership increases victim safety. Instead, research suggests that the presence of any gun increases the risk of homicide.

**MYTH:** Gun violence prevention is controversial.

**FACT:** Poll after poll shows that a majority of Americans support stronger gun laws. For example, a whopping 90% of voters support expanding background checks to all gun sales. And a recent NPR/Marist poll of US adults revealed that 59% of people said it is more important to control gun violence than protect gun rights.

**MYTH:** Gun violence is a mental health issue.

**FACT:** Individuals with mental health challenges are far more likely to be the victim of gun violence than the perpetrator. Other industrialized countries experience similar levels of mental illness but significantly lower levels of gun violence.

**MYTH:** Gun laws aren't effective because criminals don't follow the law.

**FACT:** Strong gun laws have been proven to reduce gun violence.

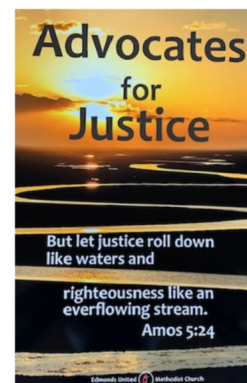
### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Thank you for reading this! There is not a single cause of gun violence—there are many. And while we cannot prevent every single instance of gun violence in America, there is much we can do to dramatically reduce it through many approaches.

If you are interested, please come by our table on June 25 at EUMC before and after the service to learn more or ask questions. There is also a local group of advocates for gun safety who work to make our communities safer. We will hold our first in person meeting in late June. Watch the EUMC eNews for the exact date and time.

To get involved or for additional information, you can also contact Gayle Davis or Paula Barnes. (See church directory for emails.)

By Gayle Davis, member of "Preventing Gun Violence and Saving Lives" which is under the umbrella of the EUMC Advocates for Justice.



## What is Juneteenth?

Growing up in white culture, I did not know about Juneteenth. I don't remember being taught about it in American History or hearing about it from family or friends or reading about it in the media. I knew about the Fourth of July, that it was our country's Independence Day, that celebrated the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Juneteenth is another Independence Day for America. The story is more complex but just as inspiring. The facts below are excerpted from a book called "How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America" by Clint Smith.

"On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This was in the middle of the Civil War and declared that all enslaved persons in the eleven Confederate states were now free. The country was still at war, so this did not immediately result in freeing the enslaved people.

Texas and other Confederate states ignored the Proclamation. Black people continued to be held in bondage throughout the rest of the war and even after General Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865. Enslavers in Texas did not share this news with their human property. On June 19th, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger arrived at Galveston, Texas and announced in General Order Number 3, "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free." It stated, "This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired help."

In 1979, Texas House Bill 1016 made Juneteenth an official State holiday. It was championed by state legislator Al Edwards Sr., and every year since then a group of Galveston residents have held the Al Edwards Sr. Juneteenth Prayer Breakfast. As part of the celebration, students from the Nia Cultural Center's Freedom School recite the details of the history of slavery in the New World from 1492, when the Spanish enslaved some of the Native population up until June 19, 1865. The students are a



part of a six-week summer enrichment program for young people to help them understand their relationship to history.

An older woman who was instrumental in getting the students to come to this event said, "For me to see this room filled with people . . . to see them nod when they hear a piece of history that they maybe hadn't thought about for a while or are hearing really for the first time—that's a real thrill to me. And when more people, people whose story it is, get involved in their own story, things change. Things change for the better all the time. That's when things work, when we all understand, participate, and care about each other's story."

How do people who aren't Black respect and honor Juneteenth? It is important to respect the traditions of the community if you go to a community event. This can be a day of honoring the Black community, supporting Black-owned businesses, and joining the work of Freedom from oppression. In south Snohomish County and in Seattle there are events that are open to the community. Here are some to click on:

- > [My Edmonds News](#)
- > [Snohomish County events](#)
- > [Parent Map calendar of events](#)

Broadcasting on June 19:

> [Juneteenth: A Global Celebration for Freedom](#), returns to broadcast on CNN & OWN in first time dual simulcast, Produced by Live Nation Urban

Happy Juneteenth!  
By Lu Loree  
Racial Justice Team



## EUMC Members Advisors to Edmonds Environmental Youth Summit

Members of the EUMC Advocates for Justice-Environment members, Lu Loree, Barb Steller, Gayla Shoemake, and Dick Gibson acted as advisors to the Edmonds Environmental Youth Summit, held at Edmonds Waterfront Center on Friday, May 12th. The summit was attended by 40 youth from 6 area high schools with 8 adult supporters.

Interfaith Climate Action provided the advisors, including EUMC Advocates for Justice-Environment members, who are also ICA members: Lu Loree, Barb Steller, Gayla Shoemake, and Dick Gibson.

Keynote speaker was Sadie Clark, a senior at



Ballard High School and president of Ballard's Earth Science Corps. Workshops were offered on Climate Myths, Youth Community Action, Legacy Forests, and Native Plants on the Waterfront.

Thank you EUMC Advocates for Justice-Environment members Lu Loree, Barb Steller, Gayla Shoemake, and Dick Gibson for supporting this important work in our community with our young people!



Monster-mushrooms spied on church property! Do you know where?

Co-Pastor  
Ann Jacob

Co-Pastor  
Donna Pritchard

Church Administrator  
Denise Williams

Director of Worship Arts  
David Hendrix

Director of Family Ministries  
Deacon Erin Simmons

Elln McMurrey  
Accountant/Bookkeeper

Director of Children's Center  
Natalie DeLeon

Children's Center Staff:

Laurie Brown  
Marie Chessman  
Salwa Ibrahim  
Maritza Lianos  
Anna Lund  
Rachel Molloy  
Sarah Shelley  
Anna Thompson

Facilities Manager  
Kevin Danberg

Custodians:  
Tony Garcia

Seminary Intern  
Angela Molloy

## Welcome to our Newest Staff Member

Please welcome our newest staff member, Ellen McMurrey, our new accountant! Ellen started on April 18. She has a CPA and an MBA and brings 40 plus years' experience to the job. Ellen has worked in finance and accounting her whole career. She is originally from Maine, but lived in Dallas, Texas, with her Texan husband for 44 years. They have one son who remained in Texas. She and her husband, Charles, moved to Everett in February this year, to take care of her 93 year-old mother. She also has two sisters in the area. Ellen loves to travel and has been to every state except Alaska. She hopes to go sometime to see the northern lights. So far Ellen likes it here, but her Texan husband is not so sure!



### GUIDELIGHTS SUBMISSION

Due by the 21st of the month prior.  
Next deadline is June 21.  
Articles less than 400 words. Include a picture or graphic.

Guidelights editor: Diana Nielsen  
Proof readers: Shelly Ehni, Cheryl Hay

### A word about removal of contact information in this newsletter

In recent years, churches have become targets for internet scams. As such we no longer include phone numbers and email addresses for congregants listed in this newsletter. Please refer to the church directory or the online membership directory on *Breeze*. (Contact the church office for access to *Breeze*.)



GUIDELIGHTS (USPS 004-110)  
is published monthly by  
Edmonds United Methodist Church  
828 Caspers Street,  
Edmonds, WA 98020-2618.

E-mail: [office@edmondsumc.org](mailto:office@edmondsumc.org)  
Phone: 425.778.2119  
Fax: 425.778.3431



Join us for Sunday worship at 10 am in-person an online at [www.edmondsumc.org](http://www.edmondsumc.org)